

MCB Offers Summer Programs for Youth Who Are Blind
or Visually Impaired

April 25, 2007 - This summer the Michigan Commission for the Blind (MCB) will offer seven programs for high school youth who are blind or visually impaired, all designed to provide opportunities to prepare for independence and postsecondary education or employment:

Summer STAGES (Students Achieving Their Goals, Empowered and Self-Confident), June 10 through August 17, offered by the Michigan Commission for the Blind and the Disability Network of Mid-Michigan, is open to MCB clients ages 14-21 who are in high school. The program provides 10 weeks of fun and social activities including bike riding, fishing, job tours, and an adventure team-building day plus work experience at Camp Fish Tales in Pinconning, Michigan. For more information, contact Raymond Kirklin at 810-760-2034 or Danielle Smith at 517-335-2871.

MCB Business Enterprise Program Summer Employment, June 18 through August 10, is an eight-week food service and vending internship in MCB's Business Enterprise Program for blind and visually impaired youth ages 15-22. Participants work 20-30 hours per week, at \$6.95 per hour. The June 18 through August 10 timeline is flexible. For more information, contact Lucy Edmonds at 517-373-3459.

The Summer in the City Youth Program in Grand Rapids, June 18-28, is a training program for visually impaired youth ages 14 to 21 whose goals include postsecondary education and/or transitioning into competitive employment. This program is administered through the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Grand Rapids in partnership with MCB. Programs are taught in a group setting. The focus is on developing job readiness skills and daily living skills including, but not limited to, non-verbal communication skills, personal grooming, and orientation and mobility. For more information, contact Marcia Beare at 616-356-0188.

The MCB Detroit Youth Summer Program, June 25 through August 17, is for blind and visually impaired youth ages 14-21. The program provides youth with work experience, a one-week computer camp, and opportunities to develop vocational skills and personal adjustment skills. For more information, current MCB clients should contact their MCB counselor. Others please contact Shawnese Laury-Johnson at 313-456-1957.

The MCB College Prep Program, June 28 through August 18, at Western Michigan University (WMU) is for blind and visually impaired high school juniors and seniors, to give potential college students the opportunity to take a college class for credit and find out what it's like to be a college student. Students will live on the campus of WMU and have other classes and activities planned by MCB. The last day to begin the required college assessment in Kalamazoo is June 18. For more information, students should

contact their MCB counselor or one of the MCB College Prep Program Coordinators: Lisa Kisiel at 269-337-3238 or Shannon McVoy at 269-337-3449.

Lions Bear Lake Camp, July 15-28, will focus on outdoor fun, skill development, encouraging independence, and developing social skills, plus a half-day of employment preparation activities led by Michigan Commission for the Blind staff. For more information, contact Elizabeth White at 810-760-2037.

The Quest for Success Summer Youth Program at Camp Tuhsmeheeta, July 22-28, is a week-long summer camp for blind and visually impaired youth ages 14-18. The camp activities will focus on independent living and socialization skills, career readiness, assistive technology, and traditional summer camp fun such as water sports, campfire stories, crafts, a dance, hikes, and more. Camp Tuhsmeheeta is located near Greenville, Michigan. Quest for Success is sponsored by the Michigan Commission for the Blind (MCB) and Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind (OUB). For more information, current MCB clients should contact their counselor. All others please contact Faith Meadows at 269-337-3855.

Through its state and federally funded training and services, MCB provides opportunities for individuals who are blind or visually impaired to achieve independence and employment, and annually serves approximately 4,500 state residents who are blind or visually impaired. Visit the Michigan Commission for the Blind website at www.michigan.gov/mcb or call MCB toll-free at 1-800-292-4200 (voice) or 1-888-864-1212 (TTY).